1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Orissa	-	-	-	-
15.	Patna	-	-	-	-
16.	Punjab	7	-	-	-
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
18.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	7	11	20	9

Balance of Trade

*250. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY
DR. G.R. SARODE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated gap between the values of import and export made during 1996-97;

(b) the estimated gap between the first three months of the current year;

(c) whether the main reason for widening of this gap is the import value being more than the export value;

(d) if so, the increase or decrease in the value of imports and exports as compared to that in the corresponding months of the last year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The trade deficit (the gap between value of imports and exports for the current financial year is estimated as US $ 0.938 billion during April-June 1996, the latest period for which provisional data from DGCI&S is available. As regards the trade gap for the whole of 1996-97, it is expected to be significantly lower than $4.53 billion recorded during 1995-96.

(c) and (d) During April-June 1996 exports have registered a growth of 14.4% in dollar terms while imports have shown a growth of 14.3% over the corresponding period in the previous year.

(e) The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation, efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions.

Tax Exemption to Small Scale Industries

*251. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries in the country are given exemptions in various taxes, etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under Section 80 HHA of the Income Tax Act, small scale industrial undertakings are allowed a deduction of 20 percent on their profits and gains, subject to the fulfillment of various conditions as laid down in that section. Further, such undertakings are eligible for deductions ranging from 20 to 25 percent under Section 80-I/80IA of the above Act on their profit and gains.

Excise duty exemption is allowed to Small Scale Industries as follows :-

Value of Clearance	*Exemption*
Upto Rs. 30 lakhs turnover	Full Exemption from excise duty
Above Rs. 30 lakhs turnover, but upto Rs. 50 lakhs	Normal Duty minus 10 per cent subject to a minimum of 5 per cent
Above Rs. 50 lakhs turnover, but upto Rs. 75 lakhs.	Normal duty minus 5 per cent subject to a minimum of 5 per cent.

In addition, certain commodity specific schemes are also available under which excise duty concessions are provided to small scale industrial units manufacturing specific goods.

Extra Charges By Banks to Compute Easier

*252. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitemcaptioned "charging extra to compute easier Banks 'round off' to net Rs. 300 Cr" appearing in the *Economic Times* New Delhi dated March 18,1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to check such unbecoming activities of the banks?